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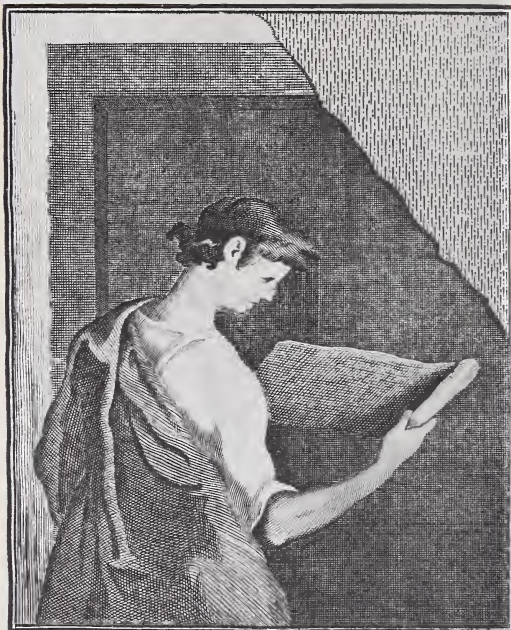
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FIFTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE COUNCIL OF THE

ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY

OF

PAINTING, SCULPTURE, AND  
ARCHITECTURE

INSTITUTED 1826.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER 1838.

EDINBURGH : THOMAS AND ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE,

PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN, AND TO THE UNIVERSITY.

1881.

THE J. PAUL GETTY CENTER  
LIBRARY

Council and Office-Bearers

OF THE

ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY

OF

Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 12th NOVEMBER 1881.

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Council.

SIR DANIEL MACNEE, PRESIDENT AND TRUSTEE.

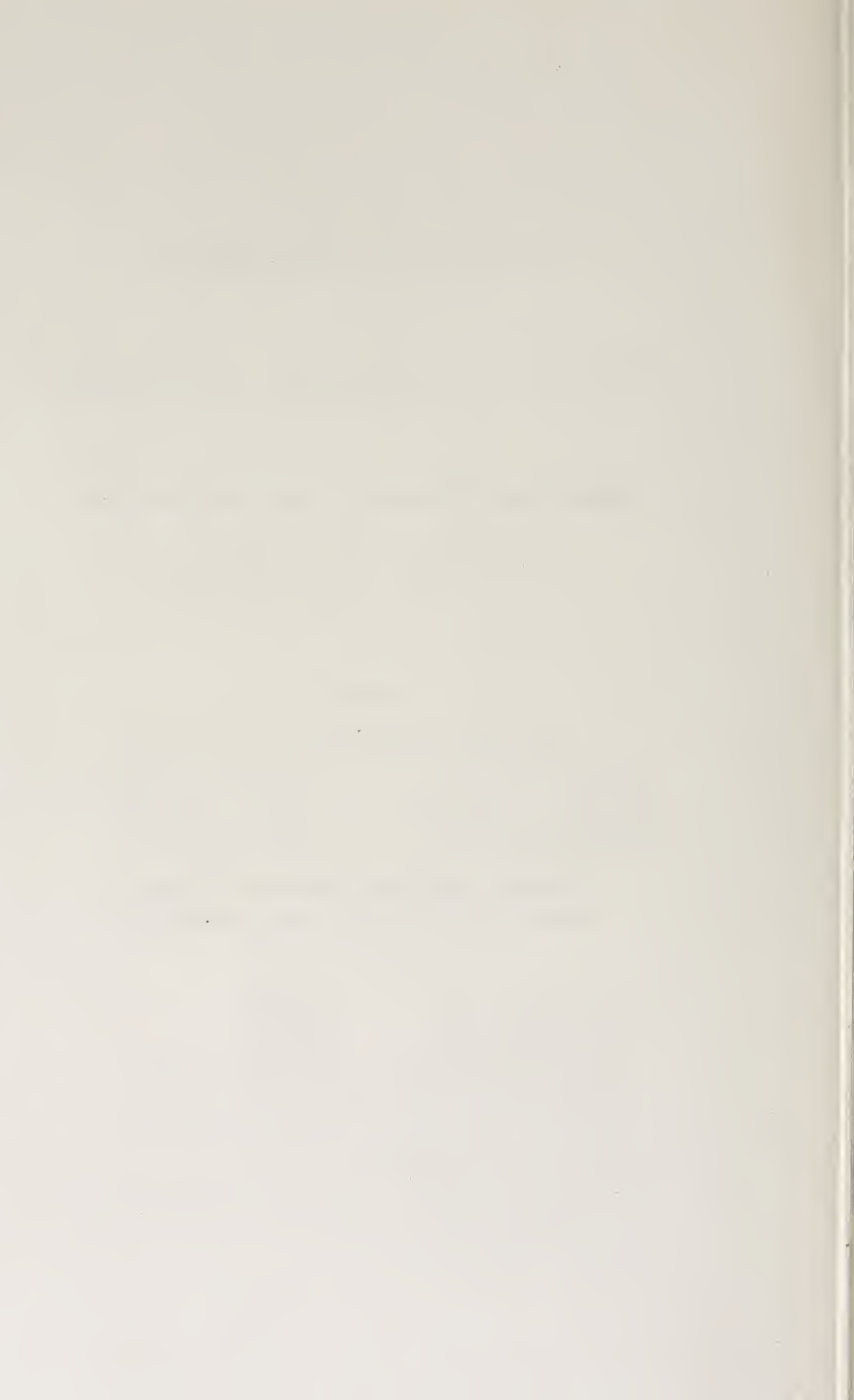
GOURLAY STEELL, Esq. WALLER H. PATON, Esq. JOHN HUTCHISON, Esq.		NORMAN MACBETH, Esq. OTTO T. LEYDE, Esq. SIR NOEL PATON.
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WILLIAM BRODIE, Esq., SECRETARY AND TRUSTEE.

ARTHUR PERIGAL, Esq., TREASURER AND TRUSTEE.

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J. M. BARCLAY, Esq.,		TRUSTEE.
W. F. DOUGLAS, Esq.,		AUDITOR.
JOHN HUTCHISON, Esq.,		LIBRARIAN AND AUDITOR.
GOURLAY STEELL, Esq.,	}	CURATORS OF LIBRARY.
WALLER H. PATON, Esq.,		
WILLIAM M'TAGGART, Esq.,	}	VISITORS OF THE LIFE ACADEMY.
W. E. LOCKHART, Esq.,		
J. M. BARCLAY, Esq.,		
ROBERT HERDMAN, Esq.,		





## REPORT.

THE COUNCIL have pleasure in submitting their Report for the past year, as follows :—

I. The Exhibition of 1881 opened on the 19th February and closed on the 14th May. It contained 1120 Works of Art, which were selected from a number much larger than had ever previously been offered for exhibition. Many had to be declined for want of space, owing in a great measure to the condition not being complied with which various Councils have urged regarding the excessive width of frames. The attendance both at the morning and evening hours of exhibition exceeded that of last year, which was also considerably above the average. The Works exhibited were almost entirely by Scottish Artists and Honorary Members of the Academy.

II. The Annual Dinner took place in the Galleries on the 18th February, when the President and Council had the honour of entertaining a large number of distinguished guests interested in the progress of Art.

III. At the Annual General Meeting held on the 10th November 1880, Messrs. R. P. Bell and George Aikman were elected Associates of the Academy, to fill the vacancies

caused by the election of Messrs. Norman Macbeth and Otto Theodor Leyde to the rank of Academicians.

IV. At the Statutory Meeting, held on the 10th February, Mr. W. F. Vallance was duly elected Academician to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Charles Lees. This election has made a vacancy in the rank of Associate, which has to be filled up at the Meeting at which this Report is read.

V. The following is the Report of the Librarian and Curators of the Library :—

“There has been a large attendance of Members and Students in the Library during the past year. The following books, prints, etc., have been added to the Library :—

“The Royal Collection of Drawings by the Old Masters at Windsor.

“Drawings, by the Old Masters in the Library of Christ Church, Oxford. Reproduced by the autotype process. 5 Vols. Folio. London, Grosvenor Gallery, 1879.

*Presented by* JOHN R. FINDLAY, Esq.

“Twenty Proofs of the Illustrations to ‘Johnny Gibb of Gushetnook,’ by George Reid, Esq., R.S.A.

*Presented by* GEORGE REID, Esq., R.S.A.

“L’Œuvre de Rembrandt, Planches. 2 Vols. Folio.

“Scottish Arms. Being a Collection of Armorial Bearings A.D. 1370-1678. Reproduced in facsimile from contemporary manuscripts, with Heraldic and Genealogical Notes. By R. R. Stoddart. 2 Vols. Folio. Edinburgh, 1881.

“Archæologia Scotica. Sculptured Monuments in Iona and the West Highlands, by James Drummond, R.S.A. Edinburgh, printed for the Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. 1 Vol. Folio. 1881.

"The Ars Moriendi (Editio Princeps, circa 1492). A Reproduction of the copy in the British Museum. Edited by W. Harry Rylands, F.S.A., with an Introduction by George Bullen, F.S.A. Printed for the Holbein Society. 1 Vol. Quarto. 1881.

"Miscellany of the Scottish Burgh Records Society. Edinburgh 1881. 1 Vol. Quarto.

(Signed) "JOHN HUTCHISON, *Librarian*.  
GOURLAY STEELL, *Curator*.  
WALLER H. PATON, *Curator*."

## VI. The Visitors of the Life School report as follows :—

"The Visitors of the Life School have to report that the Class arrangements during 1880-81 were precisely the same as those of the preceding year. The Session extended from the beginning of November till the end of June, and a morning and an evening class met four times a week. The average attendance at each was, throughout the whole season, fifteen.

"The Council has had an opportunity of forming an opinion as to the merits of the work done in the School. It is not the Visitors' part at present to do more than bear testimony to the entirely satisfactory character of the Class, and to the unfailing attention and judicious supervision of Mr. Stanton.

(Signed) "ROBERT HERDMAN, *Visitor*.  
WILLIAM M'TAGGART, *Visitor*.  
W. E. LOCKHART, *Visitor*.  
J. M. BARCLAY, *Visitor*.

"26th October 1881."

The Council after a long and careful scrutiny of the studies, which were arranged to great advantage this year in the centre octagon of the Galleries, were of opinion that a marked advance had been made in the quality of the work, encouraging the belief that the School was progressing satisfactorily.

The Prizes were awarded as follows :—

For the best Painting from the Life,	. { The late J. C. HENDERSON.*
For the second best, . . . . .	. THOMAS ALISON.
For the best Drawing from the Life,	. R. PATON REID.
For the second best—Equal, . . . . .	. { J. MICHAEL BROWN. ARCH. F. IMLACH.
Keith Prize, to the most meritorious student, . . . . .	. { T. AUSTIN BROWN.
Maclaine Watters Medal, . . . . .	. T. AUSTIN BROWN.

The Stuart Prize having called forth only one Design, and it being considered not of sufficient importance, the Council resolved that the Prize should not be awarded this year. With much regret the Council find themselves called upon to give expression to their disappointment that the Stuart Prize should be regarded with so much indifference by the students, that of late years there has been scarcely any serious attempt on their part to compete for this very honourable distinction. Some years ago it was very different : many excellent drawings, good in design and careful in

\* The Council feel called upon to make some special reference in their Report to the untimely loss of this student, whose high character and attainments gave promise of a career of more than ordinary distinction. Having received a good general education, Mr. Henderson three years ago entered the Life School, and in his second year carried off the second prize for Drawing from the Life, having from the first been a hard and steady worker. During the whole of the past Session he continued to work with equal assiduity, returning at its close to his father's house in Glasgow apparently in robust health. But on the following day he was taken ill, and within a fortnight died. A few weeks thereafter the highest prize in the School was awarded to his studies. Notwithstanding Mr. Henderson's arduous labours as a Student, he was a regular contributor to several periodicals, having written much both in prose and verse. He was manly, yet refined in character, and greatly endeared himself to the Visitors and Students.

finish, being yearly sent for competition. The Council are of opinion that students would find it every way to their advantage in the long-run to give more time to the study of composition and to the treatment of subjects with an obvious motive.

VII. The Council have much pleasure in recording the presentation to the Academy, by John R. Findlay, Esq., of a large and valuable collection of autotype reproductions of the original drawings by the Old Masters in the Royal Collection at Windsor, and in the Library of Christ Church, Oxford.

VIII. The Council have also to record the gift by D. Douglas, Esq., W.S., of the portrait of Mr. Langlands, of Charlton, Kent, painted by David Martin.

The thanks of the Council were duly conveyed to the respective donors.

IX. "Reading the War News,"—the Diploma Work of W. F. Vallance, Esq., R.S.A., was deposited in the Academy.

X. The Council are glad to report that this year, through the liberality of John Leng, Esq., Kinbrae, Newport, a sum of money has been intrusted to the Council for the purpose of assisting a Student to spend part of the year abroad. This sum is to be continued for other two successive years, and given to such Students, chosen by the Council, as are likely to profit by the privilege.

The Student selected for this year is Mr. George Bathgate, who has been pursuing his studies for the past six months in Rome, Florence, and Venice.

XI. The Report of the last Council closed with a reference to the "Exhibition of the Works of Deceased and Living Artists," then on view in the Galleries, and antici-



pated its success. The present Council have much pleasure in intimating that the anticipation was amply fulfilled, and that the Exhibition proved a source of great interest and attraction to Students of Scottish Art. By the Profession here and elsewhere the Autumn Exhibition was recognised as being the most remarkable and instructive collection of works of Art ever brought together in Scotland. In extent and importance it far exceeded the most sanguine expectations of the Academy when it undertook the difficult and laborious task of thus illustrating the History of Scottish Art. To intelligent lovers of Art it presented such an opportunity for study as will not in all likelihood again occur in the present generation.

Handsomely bound Catalogues were sent to the Members, Honorary Members, and all those who had lent works for the Exhibition.

The arduous extra services rendered by the Secretary in organising the Exhibition, the energy, ability, and zealous attention which he displayed in bringing it to a successful termination, were considered by the Council to be of such importance that it was resolved to mark in a tangible way their acknowledgment and appreciation. In furtherance of this, a Testimonial, with a suitable inscription, was presented to him by the President in the name of the Academy at the General Meeting on the 10th February 1881.

XII. It has never fallen to the lot of a Council in their Report to record a paragraph such as the preceding, and be called upon to follow it with another regarding the Secretary of import so sadly different. From the commencement of the present year evident signs of Mr. Brodie's declining strength were discernible, although there was no lack of zeal in the discharge of his duties to the Academy. In July last the state of his health became such that the President

and Council considered that a total cessation from his labours as Secretary was imperative; and with his concurrence he was relieved—temporarily it was hoped—from his official duties. This, however, proved unavailing; his malady developed rapidly, and on the 30th October he died, after five years' assiduous service in the office of Secretary.

By a law in the Charter a General Meeting was convened within two days after the announcement of the vacancy, to fix a day within eight days thereafter, for the purpose of appointing a successor. The eighth day happening to fall upon that of the Annual Statutory Meeting in November, it was resolved to convene a Special Assembly also upon the 9th inst., to precede the Statutory Meeting.

In accordance with the resolution adopted by Council and General Meetings held upon the 1st of November, in testimony of their respect for Mr. Brodie application was made to the family for permission for the Academy to attend his funeral, which having been kindly complied with, a large number of Members and Honorary Members and Students assembled and paid this their last tribute of respect.

Ranking high in the estimation of his professional brethren in Scotland and elsewhere, William Brodie's loss must be deeply felt by all interested in the noble Art to which his life had been devoted; whilst the Academy, in its corporate capacity, must long deplore the loss of his business ability and judgment, of his genial courtesy, and of his sympathetic interest in all its objects.

William Brodie was born in Banff in 1815. Though not originally intended for the Artistic profession, he early attracted considerable attention by his dexterity in modelling medallion portraits in wax. But influenced no doubt by intercourse with John Philip—then, as to the end of that great Artist's life, his intimate friend—he ere long abandoned this walk of Art for more ambitious efforts. Having

removed to Edinburgh, he became favourably known by his busts in Marble—conspicuously by his bust of Lord Cockburn, which probably laid the foundation of his subsequent success in this department of professional effort.

Proceeding to Rome in prosecution of his studies, he there modelled a Statue of Corinna, afterwards executed in marble, by which he gave unequivocal promise of capacity for Ideal Sculpture—a promise which many of his subsequent works, executed on his return to Edinburgh—such as the Blind Girl, and Tennyson's *Cenone*—amply fulfilled. In Monumental Sculpture he executed several well-known Statues. But it was in Bust Portraiture that he excelled, and achieved his widest recognition.

For the production of Posthumous Busts he showed pre-eminent aptitude; his works in this difficult walk of Art being numerous and greatly prized.

In the Appendix will be found a letter, touching Mr. Brodie's death, addressed by order of the President and Council of the Royal Academy to the President of the Royal Scottish Academy.

XI. The Council desire to record their thanks to the Honourable Board of Manufactures for the prompt and courteous way in which they took up their suggestions regarding alterations, cleaning and repainting in the Galleries, Library, and Life Class-Room. This work has now been satisfactorily completed.

DANIEL MACNEE,

*President.*

At the Annual Meeting of the Royal Scottish Academy of Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture, held in the Academy Library, on Wednesday, the 9th November 1881, the Office-bearers were elected, and the Council declared for the ensuing year, as follows, viz. :—

### Council.

SIR DANIEL MACNEE, PRESIDENT AND TRUSTEE.

NORMAN MACBETH, Esq.

OTTO THEODOR LEYDE, Esq.

SIR NOEL PATON.

W. F. VALLANCE, Esq.

ARTHUR PERIGAL, Esq.

ROBERT HERDMAN, Esq.

GEORGE HAY, Esq., SECRETARY.

ARTHUR PERIGAL, Esq., TREASURER AND TRUSTEE.

J. M. BARCLAY, Esq.,

TRUSTEE.

GOURLAY STEELL, Esq.,

} AUDITORS.

WALLER H. PATON,

JOHN HUTCHISON, Esq.,

LIBRARIAN.

NORMAN MACBETH, Esq.,

} CURATORS OF LIBRARY.

OTTO THEODOR LEYDE, Esq.,

WILLIAM M'TAGGART, Esq.,

} VISITORS OF THE LIFE ACADEMY.

J. M. BARCLAY, Esq.,

NORMAN MACBETH, Esq.,

OTTO THEODOR LEYDE, Esq.,

### NOTE.

At the same Meeting Mr. DAVID MURRAY was elected an Associate of the Academy.

## APPENDIX.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS,  
BURLINGTON HOUSE, PICCADILLY, W.,  
LONDON, Nov. 3, 1881.

DEAR SIR DANIEL MACNEE,—The President and Council of the Royal Academy have heard with very great regret of the lamented death of your able and valued colleague, Mr. William Brodie, Secretary of the Royal Scottish Academy, and I am desired by them to write and convey to you the expression of this regret, and also to request that you will kindly make it known to the Members of the Royal Scottish Academy.

By you and by them Mr. Brodie's loss must be very severely felt, both as an artist and as an executive officer, and the Royal Academy here will at its next Annual Exhibition sorely miss one whose productions added an attraction to its display of Sculpture, and whose kindly and genial presence was always welcomed most heartily.

I am,

DEAR SIR DANIEL MACNEE,

Yours very faithfully,

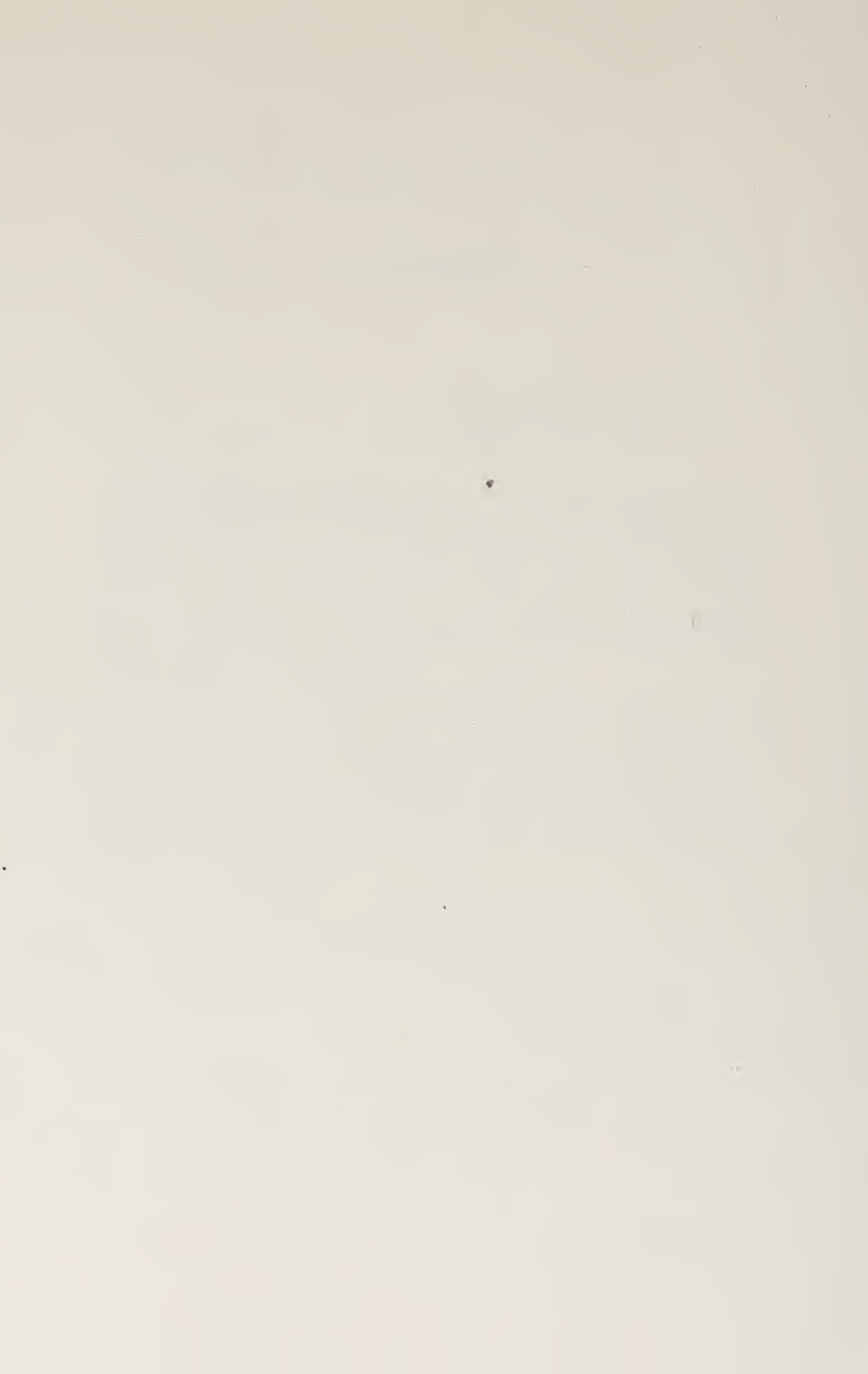
FRED. A. EATON, *Sec.*

SIR DANIEL MACNEE,

*President of the Royal Scottish Academy,  
Edinburgh.*











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